

DMCPS Recommendations for Bylaws Committees Updates



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Critical Incident Committee

- Conducts case reviews of Act 78 cases which qualify for practice reviews as part of MCWPC's function as a designated citizen review panel;
- Created as a dedicated space for discussing those practice reviews as some of the information is confidential under Wisconsin law and, therefore, the bulk of the meetings are conducted in closed sessions
- Meets quarterly when there are eligible cases to review but does not meet if there are no eligible cases
- Goal is to create systems change and practice recommendations to bring to the full partnership council
- There are 3 partnership council members designated as committee members and all partnership council members are invited to attend the meetings.



Critical Incident Committee

- **DMCPS Recommendation**

- keep this committee
- discuss whether there are additional cases or quality improvement efforts that would be of value to bring to this committee.

Year	Meetings
2018	1
2019	0
2020	1
2021	3
2022	1 being scheduled



Health and Education Committee

- According to the bylaws, it shall “address issues related to the physical, mental and dental health of children served by the Division, and issues related to the education of children served by the Division.”
- Membership has been a challenge. For years, Christine Holmes- who chaired the committee- was often the only partnership council member in attendance. 3 partnership council members are designated as committee members and all partnership council members are invited to attend the meetings.
- In the past, has heard presentations by the Institute for Research and Poverty on educational achievement as it relates to foster care, heard data report outs from the DMCPs educational liaisons, and discussed Care 4 Kids (the foster care medical home) updates and outcomes.
- This committee is currently struggling with chair appointments as well. A motion to name co-chairs was made at last year’s committee but this is not clearly permitted by the current bylaws and efforts to get a meeting scheduled so far have been unsuccessful.



Health and Education Committee

- **DMCPS Recommendation**

- Eliminate this as a partnership council committee. Bring the same types of presentations to the full council meetings and keep a working stakeholder workgroup on this topic.
- Partnership council members can still be added to the invitation of the stakeholder workgroup.

Year	Meetings
2018	3 scheduled Not all occurred due to quorum issues
2019	0
2020	1
2021	1
2022	None to date



Out-of-Home Care Committee

- This committee has not been very active over the years.
- According to the bylaws, “shall address issues relating to services for children who have been removed from their homes, recruitment, licensing, support and training of Foster care and placement resources... and shall also address issues related to adoption.”
- Has discussed pending federal legislation, heard presentations on data or issues relating to youth in care, or discussed stakeholder partnerships regarding youth in care.
- When Judge Crivello chaired the committee in 2021, it met often, but is currently also without a chair.
- 3 partnership council members designated as committee members and all partnership council members are invited to attend the meetings.



Out-of-Home Care Committee

- **DMCPS Recommendation**

- eliminate this committee altogether or change its focus to support the reduction of group care efforts being undertaken in the Milwaukee community.

Year	Meetings
2018	0
2019	0
2020	0
2021	5
2022	None to date



Proposed New MCWPC Committees

- Milwaukee Prevention Services Committee
- Reducing Group Care or MKE Teen Supports Committee



Milwaukee Prevention Services Committee

- New practice focus is keeping children in their family homes and reducing CPS interventions
- Most Milwaukee prevention work is done outside of DMCPs or DCF.
- DMCPs has limited financial resources to dedicate to preventing families from entering the deepest levels of system involvement.
- Suggested stakeholder partners would include agencies doing prevention work, Milwaukee County, and peer support partners
- This committee is an opportunity for a community look at prevention which could:
 - make recommendations for systems improvement and processes- both within CPS and without- to better ensure that families can receive the services they need outside of the CPS system.
 - look for collaborative funding opportunities to support prevention work in Milwaukee County.
 - partner with DMCPs on opportunities to gather data about the needs of families who are entering that deepest level of system involvement.



Reducing Group Care or MKE Teen Supports Committee

- DMCPs is working to dramatically reduce the use of group care for children in its care.
- Milwaukee has approximately 200 older youth in group care- half of the statewide group care population.
- The majority are placed in group homes and the majority of those group homes are not QRTPs providing treatment.
- Finding foster care placements for older youth is incredibly challenging and we are also taking into care children whose parents are asking us to remove their children from their homes.
- Suggested stakeholder partners include Milwaukee County program providers, agencies supporting teens in the community, and group care providers.
- This committee would address the teen care crisis in Milwaukee by
 - Identifying or creating successful interventions to help keep teens with their parents or relatives,
 - Identifying new provider opportunities that best support teens staying in family placements instead of group care, and
 - working with DMCPs and Casey Family Programs on its Breaking Barriers project (to reduce the use of group care by 40% over the next two years).

